

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A supporting framework, comprising:

a roller having a radius, a top support surface, and an axis positioned generally horizontally when in a use position;

a carrying frame carrying the roller; and

a plurality of lateral guide elements coupled to the carrying frame, one of the lateral guide elements being positioned adjacent to one of the ends of the roller, another one of the lateral guide elements being positioned adjacent to another one of the ends of the roller, each one of the lateral guide elements having an extension portion with a length which is greater than the radius of the roller, each one of the extension portions being pivotal relative to the carrying frame between an active position and an inactive position, the extension portion of each one of the lateral guide elements being connected to a circular-shaped member,

the extension portions in the active position extending toward the top support surface of the roller, wherein the extension portions define a free space, the free space positioned between the extension portions in the active position and beyond the top support surface, the free space configured to provide access to the top support surface in the active position, and

the extension portions in the inactive position located outside the free space.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The supporting structure of claim 1, wherein the roller has axial extensions projecting out of the ends of the roller and wherein the lateral guide elements are pivotal about the axial extensions.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The supporting framework according to claim 31, wherein each one of the circular-shaped members includes a disk.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The supporting framework according to claim 32, wherein the carrying frame has upwardly extending bearing limbs, the bearing limbs each having a bearing opening, the roller having axial extensions projecting out of the ends of the roller, each one of the axial extensions of the roller extending into one of the bearing openings, and wherein the position retaining supporting disk has a central bearing opening which is plugged onto one of the axial extensions and is at least partially surrounded by an approximately semicircular slot through which a fastener projects.

Claim 5 (original): The supporting framework according to claim 4, wherein the fastener is a screw screwed into a threaded bore of the bearing limb, the screw disposed directly beneath the axial extension and rests on a periphery of the semicircular slot by way of a screw head.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A supporting framework, comprising:

a roller having a radius, a top support surface, and an axis positioned generally horizontally when in a use position;

a carrying frame carrying the roller; and

a plurality of lateral guide elements coupled to the carrying frame, one of the lateral guide elements being positioned adjacent to one of the ends of the roller, another one of the lateral guide elements being positioned adjacent to another one of the ends of the roller, each one of the lateral guide elements having an extension portion with a length which is greater than the radius of the roller, each one of the extension portions being pivotal relative to the carrying frame between an active position and an inactive position, wherein the carrying frame has upwardly extending bearing limbs and further comprising a plurality of catches disposed on each of the bearing limbs and, with the lateral guide elements moved into the active position, project into slots in the lateral guide elements,

the extension portions in the active position extending toward the top support surface of the roller, wherein the extension portions define a free space, the free space positioned between the extension portions in the active position and beyond the top support surface, the free space configured to provide access to the top support surface in the active position, and

the extension portions in the inactive position located outside the free space.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The supporting framework according to claim 6, wherein each catch is formed by a notched portion along a peripheral incision of the bearing limb.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The supporting framework according to claim 6, wherein each lateral guide element is tilted about a fastening location and releases the catch.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The supporting framework according to claim 6, wherein each lateral guide element in the active position is in a generally vertically upwardly oriented position in which the lateral guide element is secured against pivoting by the catch and a fastener projecting through the slot.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The supporting framework according to claim 32, wherein the position retaining supporting disk has a diameter smaller than a diameter of the roller.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The supporting framework according to claim 1, further comprising an indicator on the lateral guide elements indicating directions of rotation of the lateral guide elements.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The supporting framework according to claim 4, wherein the position retaining supporting disk has a diameter smaller than a diameter of the roller.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The supporting framework according to claim 5, wherein the position retaining supporting disk has a diameter smaller than a diameter of the roller.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A roller stand, comprising:

a framework;

a roller support connected to the framework and having a plurality of opposed ends;

a workpiece-supporting roller supported by the roller support between the ends, the workpiece-supporting roller having a radius and a top support surface configured to support a workpiece in a space, at least part of the top support surface extending along an axis; and

at least one workpiece guide coupled to one of the ends of the roller support, the workpiece guide having a guide portion with a length which is greater than the radius of the workpiece-supporting roller, the workpiece guide being movable relative to at least one end of the roller support between:

- (a) an active position outside of the space in which the guide portion extends beyond the axis , and
- (b) an inactive position outside of the space in which the guide portion remains below the axis,

the workpiece guide comprising a position retaining support rotatably mounted at a first end of the roller support and a position retainer extending from the position retaining support, the position retainer extending above the axis of the workpiece-supporting roller when the workpiece guide is rotated to the active position and not extending above the axis of the workpiece-supporting roller when the workpiece guide is rotated to the inactive position.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The roller stand of claim 14, wherein the workpiece guide is pivotally mounted to a first end of the roller support.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The roller stand of claim 15, wherein the workpiece guide pivots about a central axis of the roller.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The roller stand of claim 14, wherein: (a) the position retaining support includes a wall defining a slot; and (b) the position retainer includes a portion of the wall.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A roller stand, comprising:

a framework;

a roller support connected to the framework and having a plurality of opposed ends;

a workpiece-supporting roller supported by the roller support between the ends, the workpiece-supporting roller having a radius and a top support surface configured to support a workpiece in a space, at least part of the top support surface extending along an axis;

at least one workpiece guide coupled to one of the ends of the roller support, the workpiece guide having a guide portion with a length which is greater than the radius of the workpiece-supporting roller, the workpiece guide being movable relative to at least one end of the roller support between:

- (a) an active position outside of the space in which the guide portion extends beyond the axis , and
- (b) an inactive position outside of the space in which the guide portion remains below the axis; and

a position retainer associated with the workpiece guide and resisting movement of the workpiece guide from the active position.

Claim 19 (original): The roller stand of claim 18, wherein the position retainer further comprises a catch protrusion extending into a protrusion-receiving opening.

Claim 20 (original): The roller stand of claim 19, wherein the protrusion-receiving opening is a slot, and the position retainer further comprises a stop projection extending into the slot.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A roller stand, comprising:

a framework;

a roller support connected to the framework and having a plurality of opposed ends;

a workpiece-supporting roller supported by the roller support between the ends, the workpiece-supporting roller having a radius and a top support surface configured to support a workpiece in a space, at least part of the top support surface extending along an axis; and

at least one workpiece guide coupled to one of the ends of the roller support, the workpiece guide having a guide portion with a length which is greater than the radius of the workpiece-supporting roller, the guide portion being connected to a circular-shaped member, the workpiece guide being movable relative to at least one end of the roller support between:

- (a) an active position outside of the space in which the guide portion extends beyond the axis , and
- (b) an inactive position outside of the space in which the guide portion remains below the axis.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The roller stand of claim 14, further comprising another workpiece guide coupled to another one of the ends of the roller support, the another workpiece guide having another guide portion which is movable relative to the another one of the ends of the roller support between:

- (a) an active position outside of the space in which the another guide portion extends beyond the axis; and
- (b) and an inactive position outside of the space in which the another guide portion remains below the axis .

Claim 23 (previously presented): A roller stand, comprising:

a framework;

a roller support connected to the framework and having a plurality of opposed ends;

a workpiece-supporting roller supported by the roller support between the ends, the workpiece-supporting roller having a radius and a top support surface configured to support a workpiece in a space, at least part of the top support surface extending along an axis;

at least one workpiece guide coupled to one of the ends of the roller support, the workpiece guide having a guide portion with a length which is greater than the radius of the workpiece-supporting roller, the workpiece guide being movable relative to at least one end of the roller support between:

- (a) an active position outside of the space in which the guide portion extends beyond the axis, and
- (b) an inactive position outside of the space in which the guide portion remains below the axis; and

another workpiece guide coupled to another one of the ends of the roller support, the another workpiece guide having another guide portion which is movable relative to the another one of the ends of the roller support between:

- (a) an active position outside of the space in which the another guide portion extends beyond the axis; and
- (b) and an inactive position outside of the space in which the another guide portion remains below the axis,

wherein the workpiece guides are movable between their respective active and inactive positions independently of each other.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The roller stand of claim 14, wherein the position retainer is integral with the position retaining support.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The roller stand of claim 23, wherein each one of the workpiece guides has a wall which defines a slot.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A roller stand, comprising:

- a framework;
- a roller support connected to the framework and having opposed first and second ends;
- a workpiece-supporting roller supported by the roller support between the first and second ends;
- a first workpiece guide movably mounted at the first end of the roller support between an active position and an inactive position; and
- a second workpiece guide movably mounted at the second end of the roller support between an active position and an inactive position, the first and second workpiece guides being movable between their respective active and inactive positions independently of each other.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The roller stand of claim 26, wherein the workpiece guides pivot about a central axis of the roller.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The roller stand of claim 26, wherein the roller has axial extensions projecting out of the ends of the roller and wherein the lateral guide elements are pivotal about the axial extensions.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The roller stand of claim 26, further comprising an indicator on the lateral guide elements indicating directions of rotation of the lateral guide elements.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The roller stand of claim 26, wherein each one of the first and second workpiece guides has an extension connected to a circular-shaped member.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The roller stand of claim 26, further comprising a position retainer associated with each workpiece guide, the position retainer operable to resist movement of each workpiece guide from the active position.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A supporting framework, comprising:

- a roller having a radius, a top support surface, and an axis positioned generally horizontally when in a use position;
- a carrying frame carrying the roller; and
- a plurality of lateral guide elements coupled to the carrying frame, one of the lateral guide elements being positioned adjacent to one of the ends of the roller, another one of the lateral guide elements being positioned adjacent to another one of the ends of the roller, each one of the lateral guide elements having an extension portion with a length which is greater than the radius of the roller, each one of the extension portions being pivotal relative to the carrying frame between an active position and an inactive position, the extension portions in the active position extending toward the top support surface of the roller, wherein the lateral guide elements have a position retainer extending from a position retaining supporting disk.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A supporting framework, comprising:

- a roller having a radius, a top support surface, and an axis positioned generally horizontally when in a use position;
- a carrying frame carrying the roller; and
- a plurality of lateral guide elements coupled to the carrying frame, one of the lateral guide elements being positioned adjacent to one of the ends of the roller, another one of the lateral guide elements being positioned adjacent to another one of the ends of the roller, each one of the lateral guide elements having an extension portion with a length which is greater than the radius of the roller, each one of the extension portions being pivotal relative to the carrying frame between an active position and an inactive position, the extension portions in the active position extending toward the top support surface of the roller, wherein the lateral guide elements have a pivoting handle which is at least partially sheathed in plastic material.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The supporting framework of claim 33, wherein the pivoting handle lateral guide elements include includes a position retainer extending from a position retaining supporting disk.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The supporting framework of claim 33, wherein the pivoting handle extends beyond the radius of the roller.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The supporting framework of claim 33, wherein the plastic material at least substantially sheathes the extension portion.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The supporting framework of claim 33, wherein each one of the lateral guide elements has the extension portion connected to a circular-shaped member.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The supporting framework of claim 33, wherein the workpiece guides pivot about a central axis of the roller.

Claim 39 (previously presented): A supporting framework, comprising:

a roller having a radius, a top support surface, and an axis positioned generally horizontally when in a use position;

a carrying frame carrying the roller; and

a plurality of lateral guide elements coupled to the carrying frame, one of the lateral guide elements being positioned adjacent to one of the ends of the roller, another one of the lateral guide elements being positioned adjacent to another one of the ends of the roller, each one of the lateral guide elements having an extension portion with a length which is greater than the radius of the roller, each one of the extension portions being pivotal relative to the carrying frame between an active position and an inactive position, the extension portions in the active position extending toward the top support surface of the roller, wherein the lateral guide elements each have a disk having a diameter less than a diameter of the roller, and a projection extending from each disk beyond the diameter of the roller.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The supporting framework of claim 39, wherein the projection is at least partially sheathed in plastic.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The supporting framework of claim 39, wherein the projection includes a pivoting handle.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The supporting framework of claim 39, wherein the carrying frame has upwardly extending bearing limbs, the bearing limbs each having a bearing opening.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The supporting framework of claim 42, wherein the roller has axial extensions projecting out of the ends of the roller, each one of the axial extensions of the roller extending into one of the bearing openings.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The supporting framework of claim 43, wherein the disk has a central bearing opening which is plugged into one of the axial extensions and is at least partially supported by an approximately semicircular slot through which a fastener projects.